

REMARKS

The indication of allowability of claims 4-6 is noted with thanks. Accordingly, these claims have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 9-11, respectively.

Claim 7 depended from allowed claim 4 and so should have been allowed, and with it claim 8. Accordingly, these claims now appear as new claims 12 and 13, respectively.

In other words: new claims 9-13 are allowable because claims 4-6 were allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize a feature of the invention entirely missing from BECHTOLD et al. 5,092,842. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested, for the rejection of claims 1-3 as anticipated by BECHTOLD et al.

Specifically, the present invention converts an injector of the usual type, described in the first two paragraphs of our specification, into a device that automates the injection operation.

In the conventional injector, which is shown cross-hatched in our drawings, the needle is exposed and is inserted in the flesh, and then the device is triggered to cause the injection.

The present invention differs from that, by providing a generally cylindrical housing in two parts, shown in our drawings at 7 and 8. These two parts are separably secured together in

end-to-end relationship, so as releasably to contain the injector. A single actuation of the device of the present invention performs the two-step operation, first advancing the needle into the flesh and then delivering the metered dose of medication.

BECHTOLD et al. contain no hint of the subject matter now described at the end of amended claim 1, and so can no longer be used as a reference against claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 of course are allowable with claim 1.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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